



NATIONAL
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WEATHER & CROPS



Week: May 11, 2014

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR MAY 11, 2014

Virginia experienced drier conditions this week, even though many parts of the country received adequate showers. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.3. Fortunately, the rain didn't hit as hard as it had previously. Farmers resumed planting of crops and made excellent progress. Other farming activities for the week included spraying herbicides, and repairing broken fences.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 11, 2014	0	11	72	17
May 4, 2014	0	7	67	26
April 27, 2014	0	12	81	7
April 20, 2014	0	5	79	16
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 11, 2014	0	7	79	14
May 4, 2014	0	6	74	20
April 27, 2014	0	6	82	12
April 20, 2014	0	4	83	13

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
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Virginia Tech

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	0	2	26	64	8
Barley	4	4	27	62	3
Oats	1	2	35	54	8
Tobacco, Greenhouse	1	1	31	50	17
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	30	70	0
Livestock	1	3	27	61	8
Pasture and Range	3	12	36	43	6
Hay, Alfalfa	0	6	47	42	5
Hay, Other	1	8	47	39	5
Apples, All	1	1	49	49	0
Grapes, All	0	10	39	44	7

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Planted	25	0	23	45
Peanuts Planted	20	0	19	24
Corn Planted	69	56	74	77
Corn Emerged	41	30	56	57
Soybeans	10	2	11	15
Winter Wheat Headed	66	29	74	78
Flue-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	45	10	36	42
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	18	4	24	20
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	1	0	9	10

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 11, 2014

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To May 10	Mar. 1 to May 10 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	78	51	88	43	65	5	632	546	0.31	8.86	0.35	15.94	0.76
Norfolk	78	60	90	54	69	6	626	581	0.12	8.81	0.18	15.11	-0.79
Richmond	82	57	92	50	69	6	687	631	0.33	7.62	-0.84	13.93	-1.04
Roanoke	78	55	89	50	67	6	579	n/a	0.22	7.15	-1.56	13.42	-1.65
Wash/Dulles	74	51	87	40	62	3	443	n/a	0.57	12.18	4.22	18.68	4.95

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

CENTRAL

AMELIA/CHESTERFIELD (Joan Poore)

A dry week, sunny, warmer at the end of the week. Most corn planting was finishing up, early soybeans well on the way. No hay cut yet, pasture grazing looks very good. The water has receded from the overrun creeks and branches from last week's heavy rains.

Land is drying out from the previous week heavy rains. Corn planting is complete. Some starting with soybeans, waiting on fertilizer & chemicals to be sprayed. Saturday afternoon thunder-storm brought hail in some south-eastern areas of Chesterfield.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Recent heavy rains restored soil moisture levels. Cool temperatures have kept pasture growth painfully slow this spring, and has favored cool season grasses in hayfields. This potentially decreases first cutting hay quality if temperatures continue low, preventing a hay crop from curing if cut early.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Useful week....opportunity to make hay...relatively dry and warm...scattered showers on Saturday....ranging from severe storms to very light showers.....small grain is heading in most areas now and corn has decided to take a growth spurt with the warm temperatures.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers spent part of the week evaluating corn plant stands. Heavy rains 2 weeks ago caused poor stands on some fields, and some acreage has been replanted and some replanting continues.

Producers continued field preparation for full season soybeans, and some full-season soybeans were planted. Producers also were busy scouting wheat for insects and diseases, and some acreage was sprayed with fungicides for scab prevention.

GLOUSCESTER

Finally, some weather for growing crops. Corn has begun to look like it actually wants to grow. Some fields have areas that are very slow.. Sprouts are there, but slow and probably won't be as thrifty as their fast growing brothers and sisters. Some low ground fields still showing no signs of plantability. Folks still have a week or so to decide if they are staying with corn or switching to beans. Some decisions about replanting being made. Hearing some problems with birds, grubs and slugs. Bad things happen when the crop grows slowly.

Veggies are also hitting the fields. Bean planting begins as does haymaking. We probably need a shower just to keep the ground in good shape for continued planting.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Rainfall is needed

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Dairy Farmers have been working like crazy getting manure spread, winter crops cut before they go to head and seed. Corn was going in the ground all around Franklin County. Farmers were taking advantage of the hot windy weather to cut and bale or chop for silage. Rain on May 5, didn't slow farmers down for long.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

The western side of the county is still drying out from the 4.5 inches of rain they received earlier, but planting is taking place anyway. The eastern side is much more workable and soybeans and tobacco are going in. Some corn on the east side has been up for over a week. Most of the home tree fruit has fared well despite the cold spells. The livestock looks good. The grass is green, just not growing quite as quickly as I had hoped.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Warmer weather this week has helped plants really take off in pasture and hayfield. Weather towards the end of the week will definitely slow down some cooler season crops, with the two days of 90 degrees. Fall calves are being weaned. Crops and gardens are going in. Local Strawberries are in as well and ready for picking and eating.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Wheat is heading this week. Farmers are scouting for signs of head diseases with recent rainy weather and deciding whether to use a fungicide before label limits prevent. Corn planting is significantly delayed this year due to a rainy April. Planting of other annual vegetable and fruit crops are also delayed. Strawberry U-Pick operations have opened this week.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

We had a good field work week with a "Farmers Rain" .5-1" late Saturday afternoon 5/10. Corn planting 95% complete with cotton, peanuts, and soybeans going in at a rapid pace.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Favorable weather allowed growers in our area time to get field work accomplished. Some field corn replanting is underway from the early season weather swings and abundance of precipitation. Strawberry fields are in full swing, with peak production for most farms this week through next week.